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ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MILITARY ACTIVITY TUYEN QUANG AREA, NORTH VIETNAM

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS EXTENSIVE ROAD CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS AND MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE TUYEN QUANG AREA OF NORTH VIETNAM.

2. COLLATERAL:

MAJOR CHINESE ENGINEERING PROJECTS IN NORTHERN NORTH VIETNAM
INCLUDE APPARENTLY COMPLETED COASTAL DEFENSE SITES IN THE NORTHEAST,
AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION AT YEN BAI IN THE NORTHWEST, RAIL AND ROAD
CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF DISPERSED
MILITARY CAMPS AND STORAGE FACILITIES IN THE MOUNTAIN REGIONS NEAR THE
CHINESE BORDER. MOST OF THESE PROJECTS ARE LONG-TERM ENDEAVORS DESIGNED TO UPGRADE NORTH VIETNAM'S OVERALL DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. THE
IMPROVEMENTS IN LAND TRANSPORTATION ROUTES BETWEEN CHINA AND NORTH
VIETNAM ALSO ENHANCE PEKING'S CAPABILITY TO INCREASE ITS SUPPORT FOR
THE HA NOI REGIME.

THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT MOST OF THE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS IN THE NORTHERN THIRD OF NORTH VIETNAM ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN LARGELY BY CHINESE ARMY ENGINEERS. MANY OF THE SKILLED NORTH
VIETNAMESE CONSTRUCTION CREWS WERE APPARENTLY TRANSFERRED TO SOUTHERN
NORTH VIETNAM IN 1965 TO CONCENTRATE ON THE REPAIR OF TRANSPORTATION
ROUTES DAMAGED BY US AIR STRIKES.

NGA review(s) completed.

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THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT THE CHINESE MAY BE PUTTING A MAJOR EFFORT ON ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTHERN BORDER AREA. THIS ACTIVITY APPARENTLY EXTENDS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. EXTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY HAS BEEN OBSERVED ALONG THE MAJOR ROAD NET FROM THE CHINESE BORDER TO THE LAI CHAU AREA WHICH MAY BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KIND OF WORK GOING ON ALONG THE ENTIRE SINO-NORTH VIETNAMESE BORDER. ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF DISPERSED MILITARY CAMPS AND STORAGE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE FACILITIES REMAINS UNDETERMINED. THEIR
APPEARANCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOUTHWARD DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROAD
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FROM CHINA SUGGESTS THAT THEY MAY BE
RELATED TO CHINESE MILITARY CONTINGENCY NEEDS. THERE CAN BE LITTLE
QUESTION BUT THAT THESE FACILITIES WILL PROVIDE THE CHINESE WITH
IMPROVED ACCESS TO NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTHERN LAOS. 1

3. MISSION READOUT:

REVEALS TEN AREAS OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION (DEPICTED IN RED ON GRAPHIC) IN THE TUYEN QUANG AREA OF

NORTH VIETNAM. TWO OF THE TEN ITEMS ARE PHOTOGRAPHICALLY DEPICTED

ON THE GRAPHIC.

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THE FOLLOWING THREE EXAMPLES OF MILITARY ACTIVITY ARE ALSO DEPICTED ON THE GRAPHIC:

THE DAI THAN STORAGE FACILITY LOCATED AT 21-41-50N 105-04-20E
IS OBSERVED TO BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON BOTH SIDES OF ROUTE 157.
THE FACILITY CONSISTS OF THREE STORAGE AREAS AND A PROBABLE STORAGE
AREA (SHOWN ON MAP ONLY). OF THESE AREAS, THE ONE LOCATED AT UTM
WJ076984 IS THE MOST COMPLETE AND CONTAINS AT LEAST FORTY REVETMENTS
DUG INTO THE HILLSIDE ALONG A ROUGHLY L-SHAPED ACCESS ROAD. THE
OBLIQUITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY PRECLUDES A MORE ACCURATE REVETMENT
COUNT. UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS, BOTH PARALLEL AND PERPENDICULAR TO THE
ACCESS ROAD, VARYING FROM ONE TO THREE, ARE OBSERVED WITHIN THE
REVETMENTS. THE TWO OTHER STORAGE AREAS ARE LOCATED AT UTM WJ070996
AND UTM WJ072994 AND ARE IN EARLIER STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION. THE
PROBABLE STORAGE AREA LOCATED AT UTM WK076012 CONSISTS ONLY OF THE
CONSTRUCTED ACCESS ROAD.

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A PROBABLE MILITARY CAMP LOCATED AT 21-54-10N 104-53-50E (UTM VK 895218) SOUTH OF ROUTE 157 AT THE BASE OF A LARGE HILL CONSISTS OF AT LEAST FIFTY-FOUR (TWENTY DEPICTED ON GRAPHIC) PARTIALLY CONCEALED BUILDINGS THAT ARE DISPERSED FOR 1300 YARDS ALONG THE BASE OF THE HILL AND ARE CONNECTED TO ROUTE 157 BY FOOT TRAILS. THIS FACILITY IS POSSIBLY A RELOCATION OF THE DISMANTLED NGOC THI BARRACKS, SUPPLY DEPOT,

POSSIBLE PW CAMP N-40

LOCATED ADJACENT TO ROUTE 157.

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THE LANG KE PROBABLE PRISON IS LOCATED AT 21-56-30N 104-52-08E (UIM VK865262) ON THE EAST BANK OF THE NGOI BIEC (RIVER), 1.1 NM NORTH-NORTHWEST OF LANG KE. THE PROBABLE PRISON CONSISTS OF A WALLED COMPOUND, WITH GUARD TOWERS, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN PARTIALLY CONCEALED BUILDINGS. APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-ONE MISCELLANEOUS SUPPORT BUILDINGS ARE LOCATED IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE COMPOUND. FOOT TRAILS CONNECT THE AREA TO ROUTE 158. THE COMPOUND IS PROBABLY A RELOCATION 25X1 OF THE LANG KE POSSIBLE PW DETENTION INSTALLATION N-39 (not shown on graphic) located at utm vk870246 which has apparently 25X1 BEEN DISMANTLED. ALL UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7014, SHEETS 5952 25X1

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